

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/849,307

Examiner

Clifford H Knoll

Applicant(s)

BURNS ET AL.

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/30/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12,14-30,32,34-45,58 and 61-67.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ram Soundararajan on 3/17/05.

Claims 30, 31, 32, and 34 are amended as follows:

30. (amended) A method of updating a file comprising one or more data blocks in a distributed file system including a consumer lock, said consumer lock granted to multiple readers to allow said readers to read said file, and a producer lock, said producer lock granted to a writer to allow said writer to update said file, said method comprising:

sending a request for said producer lock;

receiving said producer lock;

updating said file comprising one or more data blocks;

releasing said producer lock after said updating is completed; and

publishing said updated file; and

sending an update message to said readers granted said consumer lock after said releasing publishing step, said update message notifying said readers said file has been updated.

31. (cancelled)

32. (amended) A method of updating a data block file comprising one or more data blocks in a distributed file system including a consumer lock, said consumer lock granted to multiple readers to allow said readers to read said file, and a producer lock, said producer lock granted to a writer to allow said writer to update said data block file as per claim 30-31, wherein said updating step comprises writing updated changed blocks of data to a different physical storage location than where said data block is stored.

34. (amended) A method of updating a file comprising one or more data blocks in a distributed file system including a consumer lock, said consumer lock granted to multiple readers to allow said readers to read said file, and a producer lock, said producer lock granted to a writer to allow said writer to update said data block file as per claim 30-31, wherein said notification update message informs said readers granted a consumer lock for said file regarding location of said updated file.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has presented new arguments in communication filed 12/30/04 that are considered persuasive. In particular, Applicant argues that "Leach system notifies all clients that the level II read locks need to be broken prior to granting access to a writer" (p. 18); Examiner finds that the distinction argued finds support in the claimed "upon completion of said update" and "upon release of said producer lock".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

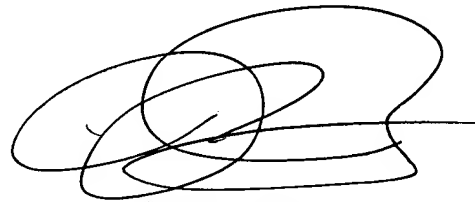
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clifford H Knoll whose telephone number is 571-272-3636. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0630-1500.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100